

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

There has been much talk about the teachers' strike tomorrow and many are confused as to what is going to happen. I have included immediately below, the latest communication from our Department's Director-General, which makes it quite clear.

### State School Arrangements for Teacher Strike – Tuesday 19 May

*Queensland State School teachers are planning to take industrial action on Tuesday 19 May in pursuit of an increased salary package. The Department is advising parents and carers to keep their children at home on Tuesday. For families who cannot make other arrangements, all state schools will be open and adult supervision will be provided. However, there will be no educational instruction on the day. The School Principal or another officer-in-charge will be present at every school. Teacher aides, supply teachers and teachers not taking part in the strike will also attend to supervise children. Staff will also be transferred between schools within each education region if required on the day.*

Julie Grantham  
Acting Director-General

The other big story over the last few months has been the NAPLAN tests of numeracy and literacy for our Years 3, 5 and 7 students. I know I have written many lines about the tests and preparation for them, but I haven't said a word about what we do with them afterwards. Put simply, we use the test data to identify students who need intervention in particular areas of Maths or English and provide it to them. Usually, these student's difficulties are well known to us already and many are receiving intervention through a variety of programmes. However, there is specific funding for identified students in these tests and, at present we are using those funds with students who had problems with the tests last year. We have employed a teacher, Mrs Rebecca Campbell, for one day a week for the rest of the year, to do intensive literacy intervention with our upper school students. She is working with groups of children in 6 week blocks and will, by year's end, have developed the reading, comprehending and writing skills of about 80 of our students. Of course, the same will occur next year, for our identified students from 2009.

Our new janitor-groundsman, Mr Gary Lynn has been busy around the school and you may have noticed how good the grass looks and how all our shrubs and trees have been neatly trimmed. It is of utmost importance that our grounds are attractive and safe. Our latest improvement is the covered link between the Prep building and the existing

walkway. Now our youngest students have all weather access to their rooms, to the toilets and to the rest of the school. Should you be wondering why there is a raised section in the walkway, it is to allow access for emergency vehicles, particularly fire engines, to the front of the school. Our lower oval is also much changed at present. It has been stripped of grass and the long process of levelling it has begun. Those earthworks should be finished in approximately six weeks, weather permitting. The third facilities improvement, our 'C' Block refurbishment, is set to begin next Monday and take about four weeks to complete. Our remaining 'C' Block occupants, the two Year 6 classes and our Chaplain Steve, will move to temporary accommodations this Friday.

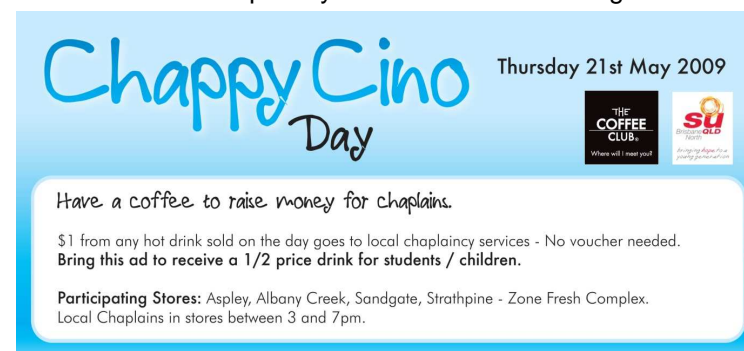
To finish this newsletter, I'd like to make a couple of points about the strike tomorrow. Please note that normal school activities will not occur. There will be no morning assembly. For any parent intending to see the latest group of Senior Leaders get their badges, this will be postponed to next Tuesday. There also will not be a P&C meeting tomorrow as that is also postponed to next week. I have great confidence in the common sense of our parents, so I am sure that the arrangements for the strike will run smoothly and I do not anticipate any major difficulties.



Mark Fisher  
Principal

### School Communities to Get Involved in Chappy Week

"Chappies", or School Chaplains, assist in providing a supportive school environment to students in Queensland State Schools. Chappy Week starts today (Monday 17 May). Students, staff and parents from more than 600 State School communities across Queensland will participate in activities. Chappy Week, organised by SU Queensland, aims to increase awareness and showcase the value of chaplaincy programs in schools. Funding of up to \$3 million over three years has been allocated through the Queensland Government's Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care Funding



Program to assist school communities to engage a chaplain, pastoral care worker, youth worker or other type of support worker. For more information visit the Chappy Week website- <http://www.chappyweek.net.au>.

## FROM THE LIBRARY



**Book Fair** – our Book Fair is now in full swing and many thanks to all families who have visited it to date. The Book Fair will run until Thursday and opening times for this week are as follows:

Monday: 3pm – 4pm  
Wednesday: 8am – 9am; 3pm – 4pm  
Thursday: 8am – 9am ONLY

**Book Fair competitions** close this afternoon and winners will be announced on Wednesday morning. Prize winners can then choose their prize on Wednesday or on Thursday morning.

**Bookclub Issue 3** has been ordered and will be delivered back to the school within one to two weeks.



**Gold Star Reading Club** – we now have ten Gold Star members and congratulations to them! Certificates will be distributed at Assembly next week.

Kind regards

Theresa McArdle  
Librarian

## P & C NEWS

The P&C meeting which was to be held tomorrow has been postponed until next Tuesday 26 May, after Assembly in the Staff room. Come along and share your suggestions, comments and ideas with us.

Have a great week  
P & C committee

## BILLET REQUIRED

The U12 State Basketball Championships will be held at the Boondall Entertainment Centre from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June to Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009. We are currently looking for someone to billet one of the Darling Downs girls for the duration of the carnival. If you would be interested in billeting this player, please contact Andrew Swales on 3632 9888.

## SCHOOL BANKING



We'd like to remind everyone that students can do their banking at school every **Thursday**.

Student banking teaches children how to develop good saving habits at an early age. It's easy - children can open up a Commonwealth Bank [Youthsaver](#)

account and make regular deposits while they're at school. If your child doesn't have an account with the Commonwealth Bank, please obtain a pack from the school office.

## CONTACTING YOUR CHILD AT SCHOOL

The number of phone calls received during the school day from parents/guardians asking for messages to be relayed to their children has become numerous and time-consuming for the office staff. Arrangements regarding the collection of children from school should be made before your child leaves home in the morning.

It would be appreciated if calls of this nature could be limited to emergency situations only as it can be difficult to locate classes and students who may be on the oval, doing a class activity that is outside the classroom or in a room that doesn't have a telephone.

Your attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

## **Brisbane Strikers June/July Holiday Coaching Clinics**

The Brisbane Strikers Football Club (soccer) will be conducting fun and skill based coaching clinics during the June/July school holidays at the club's home ground Perry Park in Bowen Hills. The clinics are for boys and girls aged 6-14 and will run in each of the 2 weeks of the holidays from Monday to Friday (9am – 12pm each day.) More information is available on the club's website [www.brisbanestrikers.com.au](http://www.brisbanestrikers.com.au) or by calling the office on 3257 2166.

## BRACKEN RIDGE STATE HIGH SCHOOL EXPO 2009

### IMPORTANT NOTICE NEW DATE: 26 MAY 2009

NOT 19 May as previously advertised  
(due to industrial action)

Same format:

5.30pm – Sausage sizzle & entertainment  
6.00pm – Principal's presentation  
6.30pm – Tours of school